

Building Standards Committee

DSA Advisory Board Final Minutes of Meeting Thursday, August 18, 2005

California Community Colleges Building
1102 Q Street, 5th Floor, Conference Room B
Sacramento, California

Committee Members Present

Thomas Shih, Chair
Gale Bate
Paul Beyl
Bob Dyson
Kennith Hall
Jack McMillan, CGS
Pete Peterson
Art Ross
Lowell Shields

Committee Members Absent

Mike Modugno
David Smith
Jim Ward

DSA Staff Present

Mary Ann Aguayo
Dennis Bellet
Richard Conrad
David Noronha
Liz Schroeder
Howard "Chip" Smith
Bill Staehlin

Others Present

Lee Aber*, SEAOC
Kurt Cooknick, AIA
Leslie Habarek, ICC
Don Harris, OSHPD
John Henry, ICC
Chris Ochoa, Ochoa Law Firm
Bob Raymer, CBIA
Kevin Reinertsen, HCD
Jane Taylor, CBSC
Fred Turner, CA Seismic Safety Commission

1 **I. Call to Order and Introductions**

2 Committee Chair Thomas Shih called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and participants
3 took turns introducing themselves.
4

5 **II. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes & Follow-Up Items**

6 Mr. Bob Dyson said he thought the committee reviewed and approved the minutes at the
7 last quarterly meeting. Ms. Mary Ann Aguayo confirmed that the minutes of the last
8 meeting had already been reviewed.
9

10 **Staff Updates - Follow-Up Items**

11 Mr. Shih noted that Item 02.01.02 was no longer necessary. Mr. Chip Smith said DSA is
12 developing a process for implementing the new model code, an item that will be discussed
13 as part of a later agenda item. Ms. Aguayo observed that 02.01.02 had been completed.
14

15 **02.01.06 2004 Code Supplement Update**

16 Mr. Smith said DSA submitted three structural safety proposals as part of the 2004 code
17 adoption cycle. One was an update to the Building Code with 12 California amendments,
18 and that package will be issued as a supplement. The others involved adoption of the 2003

1 Uniform Mechanical Code and Uniform Plumbing Code. Mr. Smith advised that some
2 significant comments have come in regarding certain sections of the Uniform Plumbing
3 Code, so there may be some delay in that process.

4
5 Mr. Gale Bate asked if the 2004 UMC and UPC will be the versions actually adopted. Mr.
6 Smith said he was not sure whether the 2003 codes would be renamed.

7
8 02.01.09 Glu Lam Beams Safety Concerns

9 Mr. Smith reported that the staff did an on-site visit to a glu lam fabricator in May to observe
10 how the standards would apply. He noted the IBC adoption process provides an
11 opportunity to change the provisions requiring continuous inspection, and the staff is
12 developing an analysis of the pros and cons.

13
14 Mr. Art Ross asked if DSA was working with SEAOC or others in the industry. Mr. Smith
15 replied that DSA will seek broad feedback on whatever proposed amendments are
16 developed. He added that the staff is in the process of compiling background materials.
17 Mr. Ross recommended using SEAOC's database for information on failure rates
18 associated with uninspected beams.

19
20 Mr. Smith advised that the provisions need to be finalized by next May.

21
22 Mr. Shih suggested keeping this item back on the committee's agenda until it is resolved.

23
24 Mr. Dyson noted the issue will be addressed as part of the overall code adoption process.
25 He proposed deleting it from the committee's list of follow-up items.

26
27 **Mr. Dyson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bate, that Item 02.01.09 be deleted from**
28 **the committee's list of follow-up items.**

29
30 Mr. Smith clarified that this amendment will go through a deliberation process as part of the
31 2006 IBC package. He said a decision will need to be made by next May as to whether the
32 requirement should be continued, deleted, or amended.

33
34 Mr. Lowell Shields recommended leaving this item on the committee's list until a
35 determination is made. Mr. Pete Peterson agreed.

36
37 **Mr. Dyson rescinded his motion, and Mr. Bate rescinded his second.**

38
39 02.01.12 Plumbing/Mechanical Codes - Amendment Packages

40 Mr. Smith noted this item had been discussed as part of the 2004 Supplemental Code
41 update.

42
43 Ms. Aguayo proposed including this topic under Item 02.01.06 and deleting Item 02.01.12,
44 and committee members agreed.

45
46 02.01.13 Earthquake Bracing Systems for Water Heaters

47 Mr. Shih noted Mr. Richard Conrad recommended not pursuing this item. Mr. Paul Beyl
48 observed that DSA is still posting guidelines on its Website.

49
50 Mr. Kenneth Hall said he thought the committee voted not to pursue this, and he
51 recommended checking minutes of past meetings. Mr. Smith confirmed that
52 understanding, but noted the guidelines are still posted on the Website.

1 Mr. Shields said he recalled that Mr. Conrad had no problem leaving the guidelines on the
2 Website, but had reservations about DSA's role in approving bracing systems.

3
4 Mr. Ross noted the real issue was the mention of specific manufacturers of seismic bracing
5 systems on the Website. He added that DSA's policy of encouraging use of bracing
6 systems should stay on the Website.

7
8 Mr. Smith said the law required DSA to produce generic guidelines, but DSA went a step
9 further in approving specific manufactured designs.

10
11 Ms. Aguayo offered to follow up with Mr. Conrad and report back.

12
13 02.02.02 Proposed Stop Work Order & Procedure

14 Mr. Dennis Bellet said there was nothing new to report on this topic.

15
16 02.02.03 Modular Building Ordinance Moment Frame Code Change

17 Mr. Smith noted the word "Ordinance" should be deleted from the title of this item.

18
19 Ms. Smith said DSA has been working with affected industries and consultants to develop a
20 code change proposal for the IBC. The revised provisions will be reviewed by the staff, and
21 the language will be integrated into the amendment package.

22
23 **III. IBC Adoption Project**

24 Mr. Smith distributed copies of the DSA Workplan, his PowerPoint presentation, and a draft
25 electronic template.

26
27 Mr. Smith described DSA's jurisdictional authority, the purpose of the structural safety
28 amendments, and performance standards for schools and essential services buildings.

29
30 Mr. Shields asked if DSA was looking at higher levels of seismic safety for facilities used as
31 disaster shelter. Mr. Smith responded that the staff collected information on what local
32 jurisdictions do in designating school facilities for use as post-disaster relief centers. He
33 noted the issue of higher performance standards has been raised. Mr. Shields suggested
34 asking the DSA Advisory Board to provide direction on that issue.

35
36 Mr. Hall said he thought the Board already decided not to advocate for higher standards for
37 essential services buildings. Mr. Ross clarified that the Emergency Response Committee
38 recommended that DSA consider higher performance standards for multi-purpose buildings
39 and other facilities that might be used as shelters, but the Board voted not to pursue that
40 course because of concerns about additional costs.

41 Mr. Bate noted the Emergency Response Committee learned that designation of shelter
42 facilities is usually up to the Red Cross. He recommended continuing to work to resolve
43 the problems associated with this issue.

44
45 Mr. Bill Staehlin said the new model code will impose higher performance categories on
46 occupancies over 300 people.

47
48 Ms. Aguayo advised that the staff is researching DSA's ability to tag buildings after
49 disasters and implement mandates regarding use of schools as shelters after earthquakes
50 and that this issue is being addressed by the Safety and Emergency Response Committee.
51 Mr. Hall stated that the Education Code requires that school buildings be made available

1 for public shelters. Mr. Shih pointed out the mandate has nothing to do with seismic safety,
2 however.

3
4 Mr. Peterson said he would like to see the Office of Public School Construction brought into
5 these discussions because higher performance standards may be more costly. He noted
6 buildings used as shelters should have adequate toilet and shower facilities, accessibility,
7 kitchens, and other necessary features.

8
9 Mr. Bate observed that Red Cross designates shelters, but that process does not include a
10 structural safety assessment.

11
12 Mr. Shields said he would ask the chair of the Emergency Response Committee to
13 continue working on this issue.

14
15 Mr. Smith discussed DSA's estimated scope of work and the tasks that need to be
16 completed. He described the number and types of amendments that need to be
17 developed. Mr. Smith said DSA has also developed a plan for obtaining stakeholder input
18 at different phases of the code adoption process.

19
20 Mr. Smith reviewed DSA's workplan and timelines in more detailed. He said the Web-
21 based input system will be tested in late August, and then applied to the rest of the
22 process. He noted Phase 1 entails soliciting Web-based input from stakeholders and staff
23 on existing DSA amendments in the current code; Phase 2 will involve reviewing that input
24 and developing initial proposals; Phase 3 provides for stakeholder and staff responses to
25 the proposals; and Phase 4 will be DSA's preparation of the IBC-based rulemaking
26 package.

27
28 Mr. Smith showed how individual templates will be used for obtaining focused feedback on
29 existing amendments and new proposals. He noted some amendments and proposals will
30 take more time than others, but staff hopes to complete the feedback and response
31 process by next March so the rulemaking package is ready in May.

32
33 Committee members commended the staff for developing the Web-based system and
34 templates for obtaining stakeholder and staff input. They observed that the system
35 appears to be capable of handling a substantial amount of data. One participant asked if
36 the system was available for others. Mr. Smith responded that some components of the
37 software might be proprietary. He added that he would check and report back.

38
39 Mr. Jack McMillan recommended identifying the agency responsible for each of the existing
40 California amendments.

41 Committee members discussed the possibility of repealing the 1997 Uniform Building Code
42 as a way of streamlining the cumbersome amendment process. They noted the formats of
43 the UBC and IBC are so different that it might make sense to start with the IBC.

44
45 Mr. Smith talked about how information from the templates will be compiled and analyzed.
46 Committee members recommended providing an option for stakeholders to identify issues
47 warranting further study.

48
49 Mr. Smith reviewed the nine criteria DSA will use to determine which specific amendments
50 will be included in the code adoption package presented to the Building Standards
51 Commission in May of 2006.

1 Mr. Smith stated that some materials manufacturers have taken an active interest in the
2 process, and DSA wants balanced input from a variety of viewpoints. Committee members
3 made suggestions about notifying interested parties. Mr. Smith noted the committee can
4 play an important role in providing a forum for discussion of some of the more controversial
5 items.

6
7 Mr. Shields suggested addressing this topic at the meeting of committee chairs before the
8 Board's next quarterly meeting. He noted Mr. Shih can provide an update as part of his
9 report to the Board.

10
11 Mr. Smith advised that the committee is likely to need technical help in evaluating the
12 provisions that come before it. He recommended adding members with specific expertise
13 as needed. Mr. Shih pointed out that the committee has the ability to invite presentations
14 from experts. Mr. Shields said he made note of this point for further discussion by the
15 Board in October.

16 Mr. Smith cautioned that deferring too many issues for further discussion could add extra
17 time and delay to the overall process, so it would be best to resolve as much as possible
18 before next spring.

19
20 At 12:00 noon, the committee recessed for lunch. Mr. Shih reconvened the meeting at
21 12:50 p.m.

22
23 Mr. David Noronha gave a demonstration of how stakeholders can use the Web-based
24 template process to provide input on the proposed amendments. He showed how DSA can
25 use the information to provide notifications and track comments. Mr. Smith noted the
26 system is based on dispute resolution software.

27
28 Mr. Shih welcomed Mr. Richard Conrad to the meeting. He asked him what DSA decided
29 to do about the water heater bracing information posted on the Website. Mr. Conrad
30 responded that everything except the generic water heater bracing information was
31 removed; DSA will no longer provide a list of manufacturers or refer to specific proprietary
32 bracing systems.

33 34 **IV. Meeting Summary/Next Steps**

35 Mr. Shih noted there are a couple follow-up items that need to be addressed at the October
36 Board meeting. Mr. Shields suggested that the Board discuss the committee's future
37 makeup, a process for providing technical expertise as needed, and setting priorities.

38
39 Ms. Aguayo asked Mr. Smith to provide the committee and staff with an estimate of the
40 number of meetings that might be required to resolve amendment issues. Mr. Bate
41 suggested discussing the workload in more detail at the October meeting.

42 Mr. Smith commented that the committee will probably need to meet monthly between
43 October and April to deal with amendment issues.

44 45 **V. Public Comments**

46 There were no members of the public who wished to address the committee.

47 48 **VI. New Business**

49 There were no items of new business discussed by the committee.

50 51 **VII. Schedule Next Meeting**

52 Committee members agreed to set the next meeting date at the October Board meeting.

1 **VIII. Adjournment.**

2 There being no further business, Mr. Shields made a motion that the meeting be adjourned.
3 The motion was seconded by Mr. Bate, and the Building Standards Committee meeting
4 was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.